

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 11221 101721Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 101712Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1348

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 11221

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, GW, US, IS

SUBJECT: PHM SALES TO ISRAEL

REF: BONN 9334

DEPARTMENT PASS TO SECDEF, CINCEUR, CNO

GENEVA PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

1. WE WERE CALLED TO THE FMOD ON JULY 9 BY A MEMBER OF DEFMIN LEBER'S IMMEDIATE STAFF TO RECEIVE THE GERMAN POSITION REGARDING THE PROPOSED SALE OF PATROL HYDRO-FOILS (PHM) TO ISRAEL. THE OFFICIAL READ FROM A POSITION PAPER AGREED UPON BY FMOD AND THE FOREIGN OFFICE. HE EMPHASIZED THE POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF THIS MATTER WHICH PRECLUDED PROVIDING A WRITTEN ANSWER TO US INQUIRIES.

2. THE THREE-FOLD GERMAN DECISION WAS PRESENTED TO US AS FOLLOWS:

A) THERE IS NO GERMAN OBJECTION TO THE EXPORT OF HYDRO-FOILS BY THE US TO ISRAEL PROVIDED THOSE HYDROFOILS EXPORTED ARE PRODUCED EXCLUSIVELY IN THE UNITED STATES.

B) ADHERENCE TO CORRESPONDING NATO PROCEDURES (SINCE
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IT IS A NATO PROJECT) IS A US RESPONSIBILITY.

C) FINANCIAL QUESTIONS WHICH DERIVE FROM THE FACT THAT IT IS A JOINT PROJECT MUST BE SETTLED ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING AGREEMENTS WITH THE US.

3. OUR SOURCE WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE MUCH FURTHER INFORMATION BEYOND THE TERSE PHRASING OF THE DECISION PAPER. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES ASSUMED THAT US EXPERTS WOULD UNDERSTAND PRECISELY WHAT WAS MEANT BY POINTS B AND C. HOWEVER, SHOULD THE US HAVE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS, OUR SOURCE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THE ANSWERS.

4. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, IT HAS TAKEN THE GERMANS A PAINSTAKINGLY LONG TIME TO REACH THIS PARTICULAR DECISION. OUR FMOD SOURCE SAID THE CULPRIT IN THE MATTER WAS THE FOREIGN OFFICE WHICH CONTINUED TO DRAG ITS FEET BECAUSE OF POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE ULTIMATE GERMAN DECISION WAS FAVORABLE, AND OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE GERMAN REPLY REPRESENTED A CLEAR GO-AHEAD SIGNAL. END COMMENT.
HILLENBRAND

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF, CINCEUR, CNO.

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Message Attributes

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